

Attorney Docket No. PRIT01-00003

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 25, 27, 31-36, and 46 have been canceled. Claims 13-24, 26, 28-30, 37-45, and 47 have been amended. Claims 48-62 have been added. Accordingly, claims 13-24, 26, 28-30, 37-45, and 47-62 remain in this application. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 25 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 25, 26, 28, 30, 46, and 47 as being dependent on rejected base claims. The Examiner states that neither the cited patents nor patent literature disclose or teach the embedded computer allowing communication with a password. The Applicants presume that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims, although the Office Action is missing this language. The limitations of the allowable claims have been combined with their base claims as discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 and 37-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner identified problems, however, only with claims 9, 20, and 42. There are no claims dependent from claims 9, 20, or 42. Therefore, the rejection actually applies only to claims 9, 20, and 42. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for claims 1-8, 10-19, 37-41, and 43-47.

Regarding claims 9, 20, and 42, the Applicants have amended these claims to eliminate the term "hardware control switch". As noted by the Examiner, the specification on page 21 discloses an HPC 101 that operates a peripheral switch through a peripheral switch port on the HPC. Thus, the HPC is obviously a switch that controls the peripheral switch. Claims 9, 20, and 42 have been amended to delete "hardware", thus reciting the generic term "control switch", which anyone skilled in the

Amendment – Page 14 of 17

Attorney Docket No. PRIT01-00003

art would understand and be able to implement. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for claims 9, 20, and 42.

The Applicants note that claims 9, 20, and 42 were not otherwise rejected. Therefore, the allowance of claims 9, 20, and 42 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 12-15, 31-33, and 36-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schnurer et al. (US 5,842,002). Of these claims, claims 1-4, 12, 31-33, and 36 have been canceled herein. Claims 13-15 and 37-39 have been amended to distinguish the claimed invention from Schnurer.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 25, which depended directly from claim 13 with no intervening claims. Claim 25, in turn, has been canceled. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from amended claim 13 and recite additional limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 13. Therefore, the allowance of dependent claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 37 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 46, which depended directly from claim 37 with no intervening claims. Claim 46, in turn, has been canceled. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 37 is respectfully requested.

Claims 38 and 39 depend from amended claim 37 and recite additional limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 37. Therefore, the allowance of dependent claims 38 and 39 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraphs 13-14 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5-7, 16-18, 23, 24, 27, 29, 34, 35, 40, 41, 44, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnurer in view of Templeton (US 6,401,210). Of these claims, claims 5-7, 27, 34, and 35 have been canceled herein. Claims 16-18, 23, 24, 29, 40,

Amendment – Page 15 of 17

Attorney Docket No. PRIT01-00003

41, 44, and 45 have been amended to distinguish the claimed invention from Schnurer and Templeton.

Claims 16-18, 23, and 24 depend from allowable claim 13 and recite additional limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 13. Therefore, the allowance of dependent claims 16-18, 23, and 24 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 27 has been canceled, and its limitations have been added to dependent claim 28, which the examiner indicated was objected to, but allowable if combined with its base claim. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 28 is respectfully requested. Claim 29 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 28. Therefore, the allowance of dependent claim 29 is respectfully requested.

Claims 40, 41, 44, and 45 depend from allowable claim 37 and recite additional limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 37. Therefore, the allowance of dependent claims 40, 41, 44, and 45 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 21 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8, 10, 11, 19, 21, 22, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnurer in view of Reardon (US 5,434,562). Of these claims, claims 8, 10, and 11 have been canceled herein. Claims 19, 21, 22, and 43 have been amended to distinguish the claimed invention from Schnurer and Reardon.

Claims 19, 21, and 22 depend from allowable claim 13 and recite additional limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 13. Therefore, the allowance of dependent claims 19, 21, and 22 is respectfully requested.

Claim 43 depends from allowable claim 37 and recites additional limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 37. Therefore, the allowance of dependent claim 43 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New independent claims 48 and 49 each recite an allowable combination of limitations that includes a password controller that verifies a password received from the external source. In claim 48, the password controller allows access to the data transfer

Amendment – Page 16 of 17

Attorney Docket No. PRIT01-00003

switch only when the password controller positively verifies the password. In claim 49, the virus trap includes means, responsive to a positive verification of the first-level password, for receiving communications from the external source and supplying the communications to the embedded processor. Thus, claims 48 and 49 both recite allowable combinations, according to the Examiner's comments in paragraph 25 of the Office Action. Therefore, the allowance of claims 48 and 49 is respectfully requested.

Claims 50-62 depend from allowable claim 49 and recite additional limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 49. Therefore, the allowance of dependent claims 50-62 is respectfully requested.

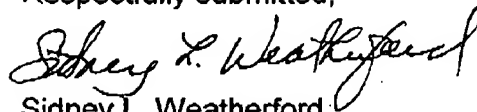
CONCLUSION

All of the independent claims remaining in the application have been rewritten to include the allowable limitations noted by the Examiner in paragraph 25 of the Office Action. Thus, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 13-24, 26, 28-30, 37-45, and 47-62.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Dated: December 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


Sidney L. Weatherford
Reg. No. 45,602

1006 Rainbow Drive
Richardson, TX 75081
Tel: 972-235-1916
Fax: 972-234-1035
sidford@yahoo.com

Amendment – Page 17 of 17